

Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler

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NEW YORK TIMES Bestseller

"An irresistible history of the WWII Jewish refugees who returned to Europe to fight the Nazis." -Newsday

They were young Jewish boys who escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe and resettled in America. After the United States entered the war, they returned to fight for their adopted homeland and for the families they had left behind. Their stories tell the tale of one of the U.S. Army's greatest secret weapons.

Sons and Soldiers begins during the menacing rise of Hitler's Nazi party, as Jewish families were trying des-perately to get out of Europe. Bestselling author Bruce Henderson captures the heartbreaking stories of parents choosing to send their young sons away to uncertain futures in America, perhaps never to see them again. As these boys became young men, they were determined to join the fight in Europe. Henderson describes how they were recruited into the U.S. Army and how their unique mastery of the German language and psychology was put to use to interrogate German prisoners of war.

These young men-known as the Ritchie Boys, after the Maryland camp where they trained-knew what the Nazis would do to them if they were captured. Yet they leapt at the opportunity to be sent in small, elite teams to join every major combat unit in Europe, where they collected key tactical intelligence on enemy strength, troop and armored movements, and defensive positions that saved American lives and helped win the war. A postwar army report found that nearly 60 percent of the credible intelligence gathered in Europe came from the Ritchie Boys.

Sons and Soldiers draws on original interviews and extensive archival research to vividly re-create the stories of six of these men, tracing their journeys from childhood through their escapes from Europe, their feats and sacri-fices during the war, and finally their desperate attempts to find their missing loved ones. Sons and Soldiers is an epic story of heroism, courage, and patriotism that will not soon be forgotten.

After Hitler came to power, some desperate Jewish families were able to send their sons out of Nazi-occupied Europe to America. When the United States entered World War II, these young men returned as U.S. soldiers to fight for their adopted homeland and for the families they had left behind. They did so knowing full well what the Nazis would do to them if they were captured. Known as the Ritchie Boys, they became one of the U.S. Army's greatest secret weapons, for they possessed a unique mastery of the German language, culture, and psychology, all of which they used as members of elite intelligence teams assigned to every major combat unit in Europe. They interrogated German prisoners of war and collected key tactical intelligence on enemy strength, troop and armored

movements, and defensive positions that saved American lives and helped the Allies win the war.

Drawing on original interviews and extensive archival research, Bruce Henderson's *Sons and Soldiers* traces the journeys of six of these remarkable young men. It is an epic story of heroism, courage, and patriotism that will not soon be forgotten.

Bruce Henderson has written more than twenty books, including the national bestseller *Hero Found and Rescue at Los Baños*. Henderson served aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) during the Vietnam War. He lives in Menlo Park, California.

Other Books

White Pages, Agent Plaiedeaux ordered his team to proceed with the arrest of William Stradom. After several hours of trying to storm the facilities, everyone became exhausted and turned to look at Agent Plaiedeaux. "Let's see," said Agent Plaiedeaux. "We have rammed the fence but only our vehicles were damaged, had a welder cut the hinges only for the gate to remain as if the hinges were not cut, leaving the gate apparently floating in mid-air, then the hinges reappeared as if they were never cut. We also broke several chains trying to use a vehicle to pull the gate down, and when we tried to climb over the fence we encountered some sort of invisible force field. Did everyone get all that? We are the FBI, nothing like this is supposed to exist without our knowledge. As of now everything about this operation is classified."

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